



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
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FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

MAY 08 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Safety Message - 2012

1. The 2012 Memorial Day holiday will be observed 25 – 28 May 2012. It is the responsibility of all leaders, down to the lowest level, to express the importance of safety to their subordinates. This holiday weekend is the unofficial start of the summer season, therefore extra safety awareness is paramount. Safety briefings should include but are not limited to:

a. Driving. If traveling long distances, Soldiers and Family members should observe all posted speed limits and adjust speed accordingly to compensate for weather and/or road conditions. Drivers should also have a rest plan. The use of seat belts and child restraint systems are mandatory in all states – Buckle Up.

b. Motorcycles. Motorcyclists and ATV riders should wear the appropriate protective clothing and equipment. Always be cognizant of other drivers; you may see them but they may not see you.

c. Water Activities. The National Safe Boating Council reports that over 700 boating accident fatalities occur each year. If you go boating, swimming, or jet skiing ensure you're in a designated area for these activities. Personal floatation devices should be worn at all times; they may be the key to preventing drowning.

d. Alcohol. If you consume alcohol this holiday weekend, do not operate a motor vehicle or water craft. The penalties for DWI on the water are the same as on the road. If you are taking medication that impairs your ability to operate a motor vehicle, do not drive.

2. Engaged leaders do make a difference; know your Soldier's plans and confirm they have a backup plan if their primary plan fails. Know your Soldiers and your Battle Buddies – if something doesn't seem right, elevate your concern to the next level. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend and remember why we celebrate this holiday. Thank you for your service.

*Have a great
weekend - Be Safe -
Thanks for all you do
for Ft Polk & JRTC.*


CLARENCE K.K. CHINN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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A+